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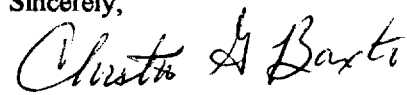
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket Numbers: 98N-1230; 97P-0418; 97P-0197

I'm writing to express my desire that the FDA take action to end forced molting in the egg industry because forced molting has been scientifically shown to promote disease. As an organization that is mandated to guard the public health you have the authority to ban practices such as forced molting that injure human health. Mere bacteria warning labels are inadequate. Our food source is becoming dirty and the FDA needs to step in to clean it up. Since forced molting has been proven to be the primary cause of infectious diseases in hens and eggs, this practice must be banned in order to protect the consumers. In April of 1998 your organization was petitioned to ban forced molting. This petition should be granted without any more holdups or delays and I ask that it be granted.

The US Department of Agriculture's Food Safety & Inspection Service stated: "FSIS recognizes that public health concerns are raised by highly stressful forced molting practices. For example, extended starvation and water deprivation practices lead to increase shedding of Salmonella enteridis (Se) by laying hens subjected to these practices." Please step up to the plate and do the right thing to safeguard the public by banning forced molting now.

Sincerely,


Christine G. Baxter

96P-0418

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20857-0001



CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/ C323

See File Number: 97P-0197/ C324
96P-0418/ C323